

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 2869 9205

Date : 5 November 2010

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 17 November 2010

**Motion on
“Reviewing the coverage of the safety net”**

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye has given notice to move the attached motion on “Reviewing the coverage of the safety net” at the Council meeting of 17 November 2010. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Reviewing the coverage of the safety net”
to be moved by Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 17 November 2010**

Wording of the Motion

That, as the Government has adopted a conservative fiscal policy for years, surpluses exceeding the expected levels were often recorded in the past; in addition, since the Exchange Fund had recorded a huge profit of \$74.1 billion in the third quarter of this year, the accumulated surplus for the first nine months of the year increased by \$42 billion, and given the substantial proceeds from land auctions this year, the chance of the Treasury continuing to be ‘flooded by cash’ has become much greater, yet not only are some grassroots unable to enjoy the fruit of economic development, but they are also unable to benefit from the social security system, resulting in cases of ‘falling through the net’; in this connection, this Council proposes that the Administration should identify loopholes in the existing safety net, appropriately extend the safety net to cover more grassroots of different types, and strengthen the support to assist grassroots in climbing up the social ladder and sharing the fruit of economic development, thereby easing class conflicts and promoting social harmony; the relevant measures should include:

- (a) to strengthen the support for the working poor, including removing the stigma attached to the low-income recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (‘CSSA’), lower the threshold of application, and provide such recipients with a ‘low-income living supplement’, so as to alleviate their conditions of poverty;
- (b) to comprehensively strengthen the in-service training for the middle-aged, increase the number of retraining places, and raise the subsidies for continuing education;
- (c) through promoting the local community economy, developing the six industries with competitive edge and positively supporting the development of social enterprises, to create more jobs suitable for grassroot workers;
- (d) to comprehensively strengthen child care and after-school care services to enable parents of low-income families to work without worries, and proactively cater for the needs of grassroot children, including providing additional subsidies for extracurricular activities;
- (e) to actively assist poor families living in cage homes or cubicle apartments in improving their living environment;

- (f) to strengthen the employment counselling services for young people waiting for employment;
- (g) to further relax the absence limit in respect of Old Age Allowance and CSSA for the elderly, increase the amount of Elderly Healthcare Vouchers to at least \$1,000 a year, and provide needy elderly persons with a living supplement, so as to improve the life of the elderly in their twilight years; and
- (h) to expeditiously increase the number of residential care places for the elderly and provide them with elderly care vouchers, so as to enable elderly persons waiting for residential care services to choose those elderly services that suit them.